



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

Media Advisory

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COUNTY ACHIEVES EXTRAORDINARY BENCHMARK IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ***San Diego County is One of First Local Governments to Meet Comprehensive Standards***

Following a rigorous year-long assessment, the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) has granted national accreditation to San Diego County's system for disaster preparedness and response.

During a year-long process, EMAP assessors evaluated nearly every facet of the region's emergency response plans, policies and procedures, based on 58 standards of excellence. San Diego County is the third local government in the United States to meet the arduous standards, and the *only* local government in the Western United States to successfully complete the voluntary accreditation process.

"Local jurisdictions like San Diego County that work toward and achieve compliance with these standards are at the forefront of ensuring their residents are served by a comprehensive system to deal with disasters," said Ellis Stanley, chairman of the EMAP Commission and General Manager of the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Department.

The accreditation process includes an evaluation of numerous emergency management functions, including resource management, exercises and communication.

"This accreditation is an independent, external validation that our region has an excellent emergency management program," said Ron Roberts, Chairman of the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors. "This is truly a regional award, shared with the numerous cities and agencies that have partnered with the county to achieve this success."

Ellis M. Stanley, Sr., chairperson of the EMAP Commission will present the accreditation to Chairman Ron Roberts and Supervisor Bill Horn at the County Board of Supervisors meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 25.

In addition to meeting the required standards, San Diego County was cited by the assessment team for best practices in three areas: training, public awareness campaigns and interoperable communication.

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